

5 December 1952

Miss Elizabeth Humphreys

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Dear Miss Humphreys:

General Walter Bedell Smith, Director of Central Intelligence, has asked me to reply to your letter of 1 December 1952 and to give you the following information:

1. Copy of the National Security Act of 1947, which established CIA.
2. Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, which gave the Agency certain basic administrative authorities.

On 22 January 1946 the President issued a directive which established the National Intelligence Authority, consisting of the Secretaries of State, War, and Navy, and the personal representative of the President. This directive also required the secretaries above named to designate persons from their respective departments who collectively formed the Central Intelligence Group under the direction of the Director of Central Intelligence. The Director of Central Intelligence was responsible to the National Intelligence Authority.

The first Director of Central Intelligence appointed by the President was Rear Admiral Sidney W. Souers who set up the initial organization and held the post from 22 January 1946 until he was succeeded by Lt. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg on 10 June 1946. On 1 May 1947, Rear Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter was appointed to the post, succeeding General Vandenberg.

On 26 July 1947, the President approved the National Security Act, which created the National Security Council, under which the Central Intelligence Agency was created. The National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency replaced the National Intelligence Authority and the Central Intelligence Group, but the position, "Director of Central Intelligence," was retained, and Admiral Hillenkoetter held that post until 7 October 1950, when he was succeeded by General Walter Bedell Smith, who is the present Director.

As you will realize, the nature of intelligence work results in very little that may be made known about it publicly. For that reason we do not recommend articles about CIA nor do we comment on those which from time to time appear in the press or magazines.

General Smith hopes that this material and information will be helpful to you in your writing for an American Government course at Northwestern University.

Sincerely,

Stanley J. Grogan  
Assistant to the Director

Enclosures

P.L. 253 - 80th Congress  
P.L. 216 - 81st Congress  
John Scali - Washington POST  
Telford Taylor - New York TIMES

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